

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 In a semcard management application, a user interface that consists of
several panels that facilitate the use of semcards, the objects they represent,
and the knowledge network is described. These panels include an entry point
panel, a filter panel, a results panel, and a viewer. One category of entry
points is referred to as “context” entry points. Contexts allow semcards to be
organized into hierarchically arranged categories. After the user has created a
10 context, this context can be used as an entry point to a set of semcards meeting
a certain criteria.

Another way a user can select semcards meeting certain criteria, in
combination with entry points or when no specific entry points are available,
is to use a filtering mechanism. This allows a user to quickly select a subset
15 of semcards or a single semcard in an ad hoc manner. Filtering is based on a
collection of filter panels and system rules. Filters allow a user to select
semcards based on their semantic dimensions, meta-data (or content), and
other features. Filters are input-output devices where the input is a collection
of semcards or other collection of elements with semantic dimensions, and the
20 output is typically a subset of the input. Rules and ontologies determine which
features can be used for each filter panel that appears in the user interface.
Filter panels can be displayed in the user interface in a non-stacked or
overlying configuration or in a stacked configuration. Other configurations
are also possible, such as tree-structures, separate windows, and graph
25 structures.